

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **AMEND** claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A tree stand comprising a fluid reservoir about a tree retaining member including tree gripping means, wherein the tree gripping means comprise projections;

wherein the fluid reservoir comprises a cylindrical or frustoconical member being closed at one end thereof by a base, wherein the tree retaining member is connected to the base;

wherein the tree retaining member comprises a substantially cylindrical hollow member and the tree gripping means ~~comprising~~ comprises a plurality of projections arranged on the interior surface of the tree retaining member and extending in a radial fashion, inwardly from an interior surface of the tree retaining member;

wherein the projections run substantially axially with the tree retaining member and include a sharp or pointed portion arranged in use to at least partially penetrate the trunk of a tree inserted into the tree retaining member; and

wherein the tree retaining member is adapted to retain a tree inserted therein without using any moveable mechanical means in the form of screws or bolts by resisting lifting of a tree inserted therein relative to the tree stand; ~~and~~

~~wherein the projections run substantially axially with the tree retaining member and include a sharp or pointed portion arranged in use to at least partially penetrate the trunk of a tree inserted into the tree retaining member.~~

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tree retaining member does not substantially protrude from the fluid reservoir.

6-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the projections are arranged to maintain a degree of separation between a tree trunk inserted into the tree stand, and portions of the interior surface of the tree retaining member.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A tree stand as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fluid reservoir and tree retaining member are in fluid communication.

20-36. (Cancelled)